

LUTHERANS START AUGUSTANA SYNOD

By Listening to the Annual Report of the President of the Organization.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS
GALESBURG, Ill., June 8.—The Augustana synod, the national body of the Evangelical Lutheran church, opened its fifty-seventh annual convention in the First Lutheran church today and heard the report of the president, the Rev. L. A. Johnston, D. D., of St. Paul, Minn., in which he exhaustively treated of the activities of the church during the last year.

He stated that the various educational institutions of the synod, of which there are ten, are in prosperous con-

dition. Minnesota College at Minneapolis, Minn., has raised over \$100,000 for new buildings during the year, and North Star College at Warren, Minn., has through the generosity of its friends and supporters, been enabled to wipe out its enormous debt. At Augustana College work has been commenced on the new gymnasium, which is to be ninety by 140 feet, and will cost upwards of \$40,000. For the hospitals at Moline, Ill., and Portland, Ore., new buildings have been erected during the year, and Augustana hospital, Chicago, Ill., expect to expend more than a quarter of a million dollars for new buildings this year. New institutions are in process of erection in Marinette, Wis., and near Alex-

andra, Minn. The Immanuel Deaconess home at Omaha, Neb., has collected a large amount of funds for new buildings at this institution. Five pastors of the synod died during the year, the most prominent of whom was the Rev. Eric Norelius, D. D., L. L. D., of Vasa, Minn., who was a pioneer and one of the founders of the synod, and who suggested the name "Augustana" which it now bears.

The reports of Augustana College and Theological Seminary were made. This institution which is owned and controlled by the synod, is one of the oldest colleges in the state, founded in 1866. The various reports showed remarkable progress by the institution. This institution is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and is rated by the state university of Illinois as one of the four leading colleges in the state. In the reports it was brought out that the institution at Rock Island has property valued at \$100,000, with nearly \$100,000 productive funds. Not less than 125 students were graduated from the institution at the recent commencement, being one of the largest classes in its history. The total number of graduates now numbers over 2,500. The board of directors has recommended that an additional professorship be established in the divinity school, and this recommendation will, no doubt, be acted upon favorably. The board also recommends that a fellowship of \$1,000 be established and made available to young men of fitness for equipping themselves to fill possible vacancies in the divinity school faculty.

It is expected that a petition will be presented from students of Augustana College at Rock Island and Gustavus Adolphus College at St. Peter, Minn., for the re-instatement of football at these institutions. The synod abolished all inter-collegiate sports in 1905, but permitted the re-instatement of all except football at its convention in Rock Island in 1910. The students now hope that the synod will permit the re-instatement of inter-collegiate football also.

Most of Friday will be given over to the celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Dr. T. N. Hasselquist, one of the synod's founders. He began his work here in Galesburg where he was pastor of the First Lutheran church from 1852-1863, and exerted a lasting influence on the spiritual and external work of the synod.

On Saturday it is expected that reports will be presented by the various boards having in charge the synod's foreign mission work in India, China, Japan and Porto Rico. The apportionments needed for the support of these missions will be determined upon, and special work will be undertaken for the relief of the Luthern mission in India, hitherto supported by societies in Germany.

The convention will devote considerable time to the pension fund for interminated ministers and professors, and the widows and minor children of clergymen and teachers. At the last convention in Minneapolis, provision was made for a committee of ten laymen to raise \$500,000 for this fund within the next two or three years, and the report of this committee will come before the synod for its approval.

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